PIECES OF EIGHT

WEAPONS OUT!

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

The pirates of the Royal James and those who had come with Blackbeard in his boat gathered around while the bewhiskered pirate chief and Captain Stede Bonnet quarreled. Blackbeard shouted, Bonnet spoke more calmly, but determinedly.

The men gradually shifted their positions until those favoring Blackbeard were near him, while Bonnet's friends formed an opposing group. As their bosses talked heatedly, it was observed that Bonnet nervously fingered his cutlass hilt.

Now Blackbeard drew his cutlass, slashed through the air with it, and threatened to behead Bonnet, who didn't want to fight a half-blind enemy. "I took you for a coward when I took your ship!" cried Blackbeard.

This was too much for Bonnet, who drew his great cutlass, which he had had made for himself when he started pirating. "On guard!" he said, quietly. "I don't want to hurt you, but you must take that back!"

RELEASE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1935

PIECES OF EIGHT

DUE!

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Blackbeard struck out fiercely at Stede Bonnet, again and again, roaring and dancing about, on the shore of the river at Blackbeard Island. Bonnet, as Major in His Majesty's army, had learned all about sword-fighting, and was not to be frightened.

Blackbeard's eyes were far from healed, and he saw badly. Bonnet stepped in close as the whiskered fellow's lunge went wild, and struck his adversary a well-aimed blow with the flat of his cutlass, on the head.

The giant reeled, roared, swung his blade wildly again. Bonnet, ducking, said, "Sorry, Captain. I'll have to knock you down, but I won't kill you!" The enraged Blackbeard was almost winded, and his followers were disheartened.

Bonnet had not been touched. Blood was streaming from his enemy's head, but Blackbeard was not badly hurt. As his weapon swished through the air again, Bonnet caught it on the back of his cutlass, breaking Blackbeard's blade.

RELEASE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1935

PIECES OF EIGHT

TREACHERY!

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

When Blackbeard's cutlass was shattered by a blow, aimed at Bonnet and caught on Bonnet's cutlass, the whiskered Terror tossed away the broken weapon. Bonnet said quietly, "Enough, Captain?" Blackbeard hesitated only a moment.

Then he reached into his sash and drew a pistol. As he threw out his arm to fire, Bonnet struck upward with the back of his cutlass, knocking the pistol high in air

The Terror of the Seas realized that he was being beaten before his men, who feared him. Desperately, he drew another pistol, stepping back to avoid Bonnet. He was open to attack, but Bonnet scorned to strike.

As the second pistol was raised to fire, Bonnet tried the same stroke he had used before to knock it away. But the back of his cutlass hit Blackbeard's wrist, breaking it. The pistol fell, harmless.

PIECES OF EIGHT

AFTER VICTORY

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Blackbeard refused offers to bind his wrist, broken in a cutlass duel with Stede Bonnet. He walked silently to his longboat, climbed in, and shouted an order, "Back to the Revenge."

Scud stepped up, as the boat was about to shove off, and said, "There's funny things goin' on about the treasure, in the fort, Cap'n." "I'll be back tonight!" answered Blackbeard.

The men of the Royal James were proud of their Captain now, and grouped around him, timidly congratulating him for the way he had handled Blackbeard. "My only care was to avoid hurting him badly," said Bonnet.

Now the longboat was out of sight, and Bonnet gave orders for repairing the Royal James. The crippled ship was hauled further up on the beach, and patching the mysterious round holes in her hull was begun.

RELEASE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1935

PIECES OF EIGHT

MORE MYSTERY!

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Blackbeard and his party went to the fort on Blackbeard Island in the morning. The bewhiskered Chief silently led Bonnet, Scud, De Gama, and Jerry Hart down the stairs to the big doors of the treasure vault.

Jerry kept close to the Chief, whose eyes were still affected by an explosion that happened in this very place, weeks ago. Blackbeard gave the boy the big key to the vault doors.

Jerry examined the key and looked up at the pirate. "Do you expect to get in with this?" he asked. "Hold your tongue!" roared the irritable Blackbeard. "What do you think it's for, a weapon?"

"Because," said Jerry, "it isn't made for unlocking anything—but look!" He ran ahead to the big double doors. "Somebody's been here lately!" "How do you know that?" asked Scud. "Pull hard—you won't need the key!" answered Jerry.

PIECES OF EIGHT

WAS IT PEDRO?

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Have you any idea what kind of a man it was who ran after you? asked Captain De Claire as Prudence's friends led her back toward the fort. "Was he black, white or yellow?"

I didn't see his face, answered Prudence, but I am certain it was Pedro. This created a tremendous sensation among the men, except only Captain De Claire and Scud. I thought they said together

Blackbeard went into another grand rage when he heard the story of a man who had attempted to catch Prudence while she was picking flowers in the woods. If Pedro is on this island he must be caught! he roared.

All day and night the pirates combed the woods on Blackbeard Island, seeking Pedro or whoever the villain might be. Heavy Spanish moss made the search difficult. Next night Blackbeard said, "We'll burn the woods!"

PIECES OF EIGHT

FIRE AND TROUBLE

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Fire set in the dried Spanish moss among the live-oak trees spread rapidly as night came on. By midnight the forest on Blackbeard Island was a sea of flame. The pirates kept guard along the side near the fort.

"We'll have to come out here or burn in the wind!" declared Blackbeard. "The ocean is all around and only here is room enough to get away from the fire!" But the night's watch was vain.

Repair work on the ships, which had proceeded so far that the Royal James was almost seaworthy had been abandoned for two days, while the crews were busy marching for Pedro. Now the men went slowly back to the ships.

The Royal James was found half full of water! She had been taking in water through new holes on that side of her hull which lay in the river. The holes were few, but clean and round.

PIECES OF EIGHT

ON GUARD

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Guards were now posted over the ships, night and day as repairs went forward. There were fewer pirates in the company since the mysterious happenings at Blackbeard Island had frightened many of the superstitious minded into mutiny.

Steel sounds searched the smoking woods for any sign that the mysterious visitor who had caused so much trouble might have perished in the fire. When they came upon unburned patches they searched most carefully.

A double guard was kept in the strange Cave of the Pool, extending from the rifled treasure vault under the fort toward the water. The men on this duty had to be changed often, as they became very nervous.

One evening, when all but the one left on guard had quit the ships and were at mess in the old fort, a hollow sounded through the forest across the river from Blackbeard Island. The pirates answered.

PIECES OF EIGHT

"AHO—O—O—Y!"

By CHARLES B DRISCOLL

Again and again came the long-drawn cry from the forest, on the side of the river on which the ships were careened for repairs. Blackbeard had his men mustered and all were accounted for

Said the pirate chief It may be some dog marooned from a pirate ship hereabouts. None of our men, anyhow—unless it would be one of those towards that deserted last week—scared off by a speck!"

Through the night came the cry sometimes nearer—than farther away "Ahoy! Aho-o-o-y! Aha! said Jerry 'a sailorman it is anyway! Yes, and lost on land!" remarked De Ciaro, sadly Let him yell himself to death! said Blackbeard.

Toward dawn the cries grew fainter scarcely keeping the sentries awake at the ships. Just as the crews began work in the morning, a worn and tattered figure of a man staggered out of the woods, to the waterside.

PIECES OF EIGHT

PEDRO IS BACK!

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

The camp of the pirates was soon aroused by the arrival of the stranger, who, apparently exhausted, fell upon his face beside the river. The strange hallooing from the woods had kept the camp on edge for hours.

Scud strode over to the newcomer, whom the guards seemed afraid to touch, turned him over on his face. "Pedro!" he shouted, so loud that everybody about the place heard him. The prostrate man opened his eyes.

The men were determined to lynch the returned Pedro at once, for they blamed him for having scared Prudence in the woods, a few days earlier. Scud held them off with his two fists and long arms.

Blackbeard, worse than any of the men, drew his cutlass and attempted to cut the unlucky Pedro's head off before giving him a chance to be heard in his own defence. Scud held him back.

PIECES OF EIGHT

DOES PEDRO KNOW?

By CHARLES B. DRISCOLL

Pedro sat up. "Greetings, Cap'n Teach!" he said, weakly. "Kill me or give me food!" he continued. "It's been a long walk, Cap'n! And I made it because I thought I'd find you here, my friend!"

Blackbeard (whose name was Teach) hesitated, put up his cutlass, and waited, without a word. Pedro continued: "I've been lost in the woods many days in the cruel walk from 'way up the coast."

De Gama alone seemed unimpressed by Pedro's actions, appearance and words. He stepped up beside him and looked him over long and carefully, and then asked, calmly, "What did you do with our treasure?"

Pedro slowly turned his eyes on De Gama. "Captain, yes! What are you talking about, may ask?" he said. "The treasure is in the yonder, is it not?"